DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 112 285 CG 010 058

TITLE Resolutions Approved at Governor's Conference on Aging.
PUB DATE Apr 75
NOTE 14p.; Resolutions approved at the Governor's Conference on Aging (Columbus, Ohio, April 15-16, 1975)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS *Age; Conference Reports; *Medical Services; *Needs; *Older Adults; *Senior Citizens; State Action; State Programs; Workshops
IDENTIFIERS Governors Conference on Aging; *Ohio

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the resolutions adopted at Ohio's 1975 Governor's Conference on Aging. The Commission on Aging views these resolutions as a blueprint for action and includes resolutions on such topics as rural and urban transportation, medical services, utilities and housing. (Author/HMV)

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RESOLUTIONS

APPROVED AT GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING

APRIL 15 AND 16, 1975

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OHIO COMMISSION ON AGING
34 NORTH HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

James A. Rhodes, Governor
Sidney Spector, Chairman
David C. Crowley, Executive Director

NURSING HOMES

WORKSHOP 1

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS Area Agencies need to establish advisory committees with ombudsman programs committed to providing and improving total community health care, which must include all areas of elderly needs. Senior Citizens and community services must involve themselves in coordinating these programs to have comprehensive, realistic goals. Programs should include developing quality rating standards. As needs are identified, adequate funding should be made available from Area Agencies and the Medicaid program.

Now, therefore, the legislature must investigate the need for adequate funds to establish independent living and rehabilitation for Senior Citizens. These funds should be available for ancillary services, doctors, needed services to assure autonomy for all Senior Citizens, training of nursing personnel, and adequate relocation programs. The legislature should also investigate licensing standards and requirements for administrators: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That mechanisms be set in motion to provide funds for training of nursing home personnel in the area of psychological, psychosocial and emotional issues of the elderly patient;

RESOLVED, That the present nursing home area training program sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health be extended to include areas presently not being served; and

RESOLVED, That funds be provided for seminars to be conducted in residential facilities housing the elderly, to educate them on issues related to adjustment to the late adult years. (By error, this final resolution was not brought to the floor for a vote. It had been approved in the workshop.)

WORKSHOP 2

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS the priorities in the use of the Title XX Amendment to the Social Security Act should be the development of alternatives to institutionalization and protective services; and

WHEREAS many persons who are currently placed in nursing homes in Ohio could better be served in their homes through such alternatives as homemaker/home health aide services, day care services for the elderly, chore services and other custodial care services: Therefore be it

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WHEREAS many persons who are currently placed in nursing homes in Ohio could better be served in their homes through such alternatives as homemaker/home health aide services, day care services for the elderly, chore services and other custodial care services: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging supports the adoption of alternatives to institutionalization and protective services for the elderly as the emphasis of Title XX monies in Ohio comprehensive plan for social services and encourages the Ohio General Assembly to appropriate adequate monies for matching of Title XX funds for alternatives to institutionalization and protective services for the elderly;

RESOLVED, That the legislature should enact legislation that provides reimbursement for Medicaid patients on a cost-related basis without a ceiling. There should be adequate safeguards to prevent abuse. Profits should be allocated on a fixed incentive basis, according to compliance with quality care standards set by a State Accreditation Commission. Proper identification of owners and shareholders should be required. (This resolution was referred back to the Commission on Aging for further investigation.)

RESOLVED, That the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging encourages the earmarking of a minimum of 10% of Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) monies to fund homemaker/home health aide services, day care services for adults, chore services and other custodial care services.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS in order to create a more equal balance between rural and urban transportation: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Conference endorses the favorable legislation of Federal Senate Bill 662 to free the existing $500 million from the 1974 Mass Transportation Assistance Act for operating expenses and costs and the identical House Bill 3155;

RESOLVED, That the Conference also endorses State House Bill 175 for the legal use of school buses for uses other than transport of school children;

RESOLVED, That the Conference also endorses the OPTA proposal for $30 million of State money for matching purposes;

RESOLVED, That other favorable legislation be considered and supported;

RESOLVED, That repressive Federal regulations barring a coordinated approach to transportation be eliminated;

RESOLVED, That the matching fund rule be eliminated in areas where matching funds are non-existent; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the State Senators and Representatives and to the people representing Ohio in the United States Congress, both House and Senate.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

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URBAN TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS $2 million has been appropriated by the Ohio Legislature in House Bill 1476 for elderly transit fare reduction: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the $2 million be utilized for that specific purpose and no other;

RESOLVED, That the $100 million being spent annually for school bus procurement be considered for redistribution as proposed in Senator Bowen's bill to allow use of school buses for Senior Citizens' transportation;

RESOLVED, That the Ohio Commission on Aging support Senate Bill 177 which would provide $20 million for capital grant programs;

RESOLVED, That the elderly transit fare reduction provided by House Bill 1476 be effective in addition to the half-fare provision contained in the national Mass Transportation Act of 1974; and

RESOLVED, That free and convenient transportation for all older people 24 hours a day should be provided.

UTILITIES WORKSHOP

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, That we endorse House Bill 583 (life-line concept) and a similar bill to be sponsored by a senator and seek co-sponsors from our own areas;

RESOLVED, That we endorse House Bill 209 and Senate Bill 94 (RCN repeal) and House Bill 579 (fuel adjustment);

RESOLVED, That we suggest that all utilities (electric, gas, telephone) in Ohio be investigated:

RESOLVED, That the number of signatures presently necessary for initiative petitions be reduced by 50% or a reasonable number under that amount.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS funds available under the national Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 have overwhelmingly gone to urban areas, leaving few and in many cases no dollars available for rural areas and smaller communities in the State of Ohio;

WHEREAS rural areas and smaller communities often require more funds per capita to provide basic services for their residents than urban areas;

WHEREAS rural areas and smaller communities often lack the resources necessary to raise local matching funds for various Federal grant-in-aid programs; and

WHEREAS publically funded programs designed to aid elderly persons in rural areas and smaller communities often fail to get a fair share of State and Federal funds

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WHEREAS rural areas and smaller communities often lack the resources necessary to raise local matching funds for various Federal grant-in-aid programs; and

WHEREAS publically funded programs designed to aid elderly persons in rural areas and smaller communities often fail to get a fair share of State and Federal funds from granting authorities because of these conditions; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging, a majority of the delegates thereto concurring

First, that the Congress of the United States should make more funds available for non-entitlement cities and non-urban counties under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, without prejudice to the financial needs of urban areas;

Secondly, that the legislators, administrators and administrative bodies representing and serving citizens of the State of Ohio should strive to correct any imbalances between rural and urban areas in various guidelines for application for, and subsequent action on, grants-in-aid for programs benefitting elderly persons;

Thirdly, that the Governor, House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Ohio should strive to make more funds available to county and local governments and agencies for Federal grant-in-aid programs benefitting elderly persons which require local matching shares; and

Fourthly, that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Chairman of the Ohio Commission on Aging to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Ohio, to the United States Senators and Congressmen elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS the fear of and incidence of criminal attack has increased at an unacceptable rate; and

WHEREAS older persons must have assurance of their personal safety in their homes and communities and the protection of their property in order to enjoy the fullest level of independence: Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the 1975 Governor's Conference on Aging, that the Ohio Commission on Aging direct all Area Agencies on Aging in the State of Ohio to begin immediate deliberations with the respective law enforcement agencies to allow older persons to enjoy freedom and personal safety in their homes and streets.

RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS the Housing and Community Development Act concentrates on decisions made at the local level; and

WHEREAS older persons must be highly visible and organized in order for their needs and concerns to be reflected in local decisions related to the community plan: Therefore be it

Resolved, by the Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging

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First, that the Ohio Commission on Aging direct the Area Agencies on Aging to impact on local Community Development Departments in behalf of all

Senior Citizen groups and organizations, to insure that local community development plans reflect the needs of older persons; and

Secondly, that Area Agencies on Aging insure that all necessary information be provided through their offices and through the Information and Referral networks to enable individual older persons to avail themselves of housing benefits in their communities.

RESOLUTION #4

WHEREAS the needs of the physically and mentally handicapped older person have not been met in existing housing plans: Therefore be it

RESOLVED by the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging, That all community development planners be notified by the Ohio Commission on Aging to include within their plans housing for elderly persons with physical and mental handicaps.

RESOLUTION #5

WHEREAS the influence and control exercised by managers in multi-unit housing affects the quality of life of the residents; and

WHEREAS housing managers play such an important role in the preservation of existing housing: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That funds be provided to develop and deliver quality training for managers of Senior Citizen housing on a continuing basis; and

RESOLVED, That older persons themselves be considered for positions as housing managers.

RESOLUTION #6

WHEREAS any new housing facilities must be planned to include adequate safety and police protection for older residents: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging forward to the Ohio Congressional Delegation, a proposal to add a federal regulation that would require a certification of adequate police protection for any new housing proposed in the Community Plan.

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RESOLUTION #7

WHEREAS Federal programs and regulations are all too confusing and unavailable to the general public; and

WHEREAS older people have a desire to learn and study about Federally funded programs available to meet their needs: Therefore be it

RESOLVED by the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging, That local training seminars be provided for older persons to learn of all sources and processes relating to the securing of and participation in Federally funded programs.

RESOLUTION #8

WHEREAS the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 requires local communities to provide for citizen participation in the formulation of the local plans: Therefore be it

RESOLVED by the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging, That older person are represented on local citizen participation bodies and boards and planning commissions at least in proportion to their percentage of the population; and

RESOLVED, That meetings be held at times and places convenient for the elderly.

RESOLUTION #9

Over and above the concerns discussed related to housing, the following resolutions were also adopted:

WHEREAS county and state Welfare Departments are currently engaged in planning for the use of Title XX of the Social Security Amendments; and

WHEREAS Title XX regulations allow for a variety of services to meet the needs of the older person: Therefore be it

RESOLVED by the 1975 Ohio Governor's Conference on Aging, That county and state plans for the use of Title XX include provision of services for older persons, as recommended by the local groups and organizations composed of older persons.

RESOLUTION #10

WHEREAS the services and contributions of local service organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary, churches, Lions, etc., are presently under-utilized: There-

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RESOLVED, That agencies operating Federal programs solicit the support and coordination from local service organizations.